

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicant thanks the Examiner for examining the pending application. The Office Action dated March 17, 2008 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1-4, 6 and 9-17 are rejected and claims 5 and 8 are objected to. Applicants have amended claims 1 and deleted claim 8 to further define the invention. No new matter has been added.

The Office Actions rejects claims 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakatani et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,862,153 "Nakatani"), rejects claims 2-4, 6, 9, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakatani in view of Murayama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,160,605 "Murayama"), and rejects claims 11-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakatani in view of Ueda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,412 "Ueda").

Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

The Office Action stated on page 6 that claims 5 and 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has incorporated the subject matter of claim 8 into claim 1.

Thus, none of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claims 2-6 and 9-17, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

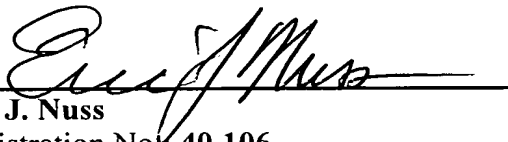
Applicant believes the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address. If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: **19 May 2008**

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Eric J. Nuss
Registration No.: **40,106**
McKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP
1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 496-7500
Attorneys for Applicant